

1998 Hall of Fame Inductee

Raymond L. Hoeft

Ray Hoeft was born in 1918 in Poy Sippi, Wisconsin. He graduated from Omro High School, and attended the University of Wisconsin River Falls where he received his bachelor of science degree in agriculture education in 1943. He spent his entire career of 33 years as an ag teacher at Omro High School.

Ray received his Honorary State FFA Degree in 1956 and was awarded the Honorary American FFA Degree in 1976. He received the WAVAI Distinguished Agriculture Teacher Award, and was awarded the VIP Award from the Wisconsin FFA Association. Ray served as Chairperson of the Foundation Sponsoring Committee from 1983-1993. Ray was instrumental in organizing the Wisconsin Junior Dairyman's Association. He served as the executive secretary of the organization from 1954 to 1968.

Ray has been extremely active in his community, serving as a charter member, past president, and treasurer of the Omro Kiwanis. He has been a member of the Masons for over 50 years, receiving many of its highest honors. Ray's leadership and dedication to his community was evident when the Mayor of Omro declared May 6, 1978, the date of his retirement banquet, as Ray Hoeft Day.

Since his retirement, Ray continues to be active. He served as the Mayor of the City of Omro for 3 terms, as President of the Carter Memorial Public Library in Omro for 5 years, and as President of the Omro Area Development Corporation for 6 years—and the list could go on. Ray was recently inducted into the Omro High School Wall of Fame this past May.

Ray's first wife Bobby passed away in 1992. In 1995, Ray married his second wife, Kathryn who had served with Ray served as co-class advisor at Omro High School in the late 1940's. Ray has 3 living sons, one son and one daughter are deceased. He has 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.